United Nations A/58/540

General Assembly

Distr.: Gen
30 October 2003

Original: English

Fifty-eighth session
Agenda item 110
Advancement of women

Report of the Working Group on the future operation of the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women*

Rapporteur: Ms. Samina **Naz** (Bangladesh)

I. Activities of the Working Group

1. The Working Group on the future operation of the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women (INSTRAW) was established by the General Assembly pursuant to its resolution 56/125 of 19 December 2001. It is composed of 11 members: Bangladesh, Burkina Faso, Czech Republic, Dominican Republic (host country), El Salvador, United States of America, Mongolia, Slovakia, Spain, Uganda and Venezuela.

2. In compliance with its mandate, the Working Group presented a report to the General Assembly at its fifty-seventh session containing a series of recommendations aiming at revitalizing and strengthening INSTRAW (A/57/330 and Add.1), which were endorsed by the General Assembly in its resolution 57/175 of 18 December 2002.

3. Furthermore, in paragraph 3 of resolution 57/175 the General Assembly decided to extend the mandate of the Working Group in order to follow up the implementation of the measures referred to in paragraph 2 of the resolution, in close consultation with the Secretary General. By paragraph 8 of the same resolution, the Assembly requested the Working Group to submit a preliminary report to the Commission on the Status of Women at its forty-seventh session, and to submit its final report thereon to the General Assembly at its fifty-eighth session.

4. In February 2003, the Working Group prepared the preliminary report to the Commission on the Status of Women (A/AC.266/1), in compliance with paragraph 8 of resolution 57/175. That report was presented to the Commission at its forty-

* The tardiness of submission of the present report is due to the fact that the Working Group held its last meeting on 24 October 2003, having received authorization from the General Assembly on 20 October 2003 to hold the meeting during the main part of the fifty-eighth session of the Assembly.

03-58737 (E) 031103

seventh session. As a result, the Commission adopted decision 47/101, in which it took note of the preliminary report of the Working Group, and recommended to the Economic and Social Council that it consider the reports of the Working Group to the Assembly at its fifty-seventh session (A/57/330 and Add.1) under the appropriate agenda item at its substantive session of 2003.

5. On behalf of the Working Group and in compliance with its mandate, the President of the Group, the Permanent Representative of Spain, sent a letter to the President of the Economic and Social Council (E/2003/93) transmitting a note with the recommendations of the Working Group.

6. The note specified the proposal of the Working Group to amend the statute of INSTRAW, in accordance with the recommendations made by the Working Group in its first report (see A/57/330, paras. 52, 53 and 55).

7. The note proposed specific amendments to recommendations contained in paragraphs 52 and 53 of A/57/330. Regarding paragraph 55, the Group proposed that any decision in that regard should be taken by the General Assembly at its fifty-eighth session.

8. Regarding the appointment of a Director for the Institute, the Working Group has taken steps in compliance with its mandate in order to abide by the recommendation in paragraph 57 (g) of A/57/330 that the Secretary-General appoint a Director to be based at INSTRAW headquarters in the Dominican Republic.

9. That recommendation, along with the others, was endorsed by the General Assembly in its resolution 57/175. Furthermore, in paragraph 9 of the resolution, the Assembly requested the Secretary-General to appoint a Director, without delay and in consultation with the Working Group.

10. At the time resolution 57/175 was adopted, INSTRAW had an interim Director, Mrs. Savitri Butchev, appointed from 28 October 2002 to 6 January 2003.

11. The Working Group did not receive any information regarding the implementation of resolution 57/175. For that reason, the President, on behalf of the Group, convened a meeting with representatives of the Secretariat. The meeting was held on 10 February 2003 and was attended by the following: the President of the Working Group (the Permanent Representative of Spain); the Permanent Representative of the Dominican Republic, host country of INSTRAW; the Deputy Secretary-General; the Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs; and the Special Adviser on Gender Issues and Advancement of Women.

12. On 20 February 2003, the Special Adviser on Gender Issues and Advancement of Women sent a note verbale to the Permanent Representative of Spain transmitting a profile to be used in vetting candidates for the post of Director at the D-2 level. On 26 February 2003, the Permanent Representative of Spain sent a proposal for a candidate to the Secretariat. By letter dated 6 March 2003, the Special Adviser acknowledged receipt of the proposal and of the voluntary contribution of US$ 108,400 which Spain had announced on 10 February 2003.

13. During the month of March, no notification was received on the process. For that reason, on 9 April 2003, the Working Group wrote to the Secretary-General for the first time. The Secretariat proposed a six-month contract for the candidate, whose curriculum vitae, in official format, was sent to the Secretariat under cover of a note verbale dated 24 April 2003.

14. On 2 May, the Working Group convened a meeting with the Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs and representatives of the Office of the Controller of the United Nations. During the meeting, the Under-Secretary-General confirmed that the Director's contract would be for a period of six months, renewable for similar periods, and indefinitely, depending on available resources. Likewise, the representatives of the Office of the Controller promised to submit information regarding the financial situation of the Institute in 2002, as well as an estimate for 2003, information that was not received by the Working Group.

15. On 9 May 2003, the Working Group addressed a second letter to the Secretary-General, reiterating the need, mandated by the General Assembly, to appoint a Director for the Institute as soon as possible.

16. On 23 May, the Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs sent a letter to the Permanent Representative of Spain, pointing out that, because of her experience with gender issues, the candidate could only be recruited at the D-1 level, although the requirement or observance of the requirement had not been specified in the note verbale dated 20 February from the Special Adviser. It was confirmed that previous Directors had not met that requirement.

17. Similarly, the Group was informed that, on 16 May, the Permanent Representative of Belize, on behalf of the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States, had sent a letter to the Secretary-General requesting compliance with the mandate of the General Assembly, reiterating the need to appoint a Director for the Institute as soon as possible and supporting the Spanish candidate.

18. On 30 May, by recommendation of the Working Group, the Government of the Dominican Republic organized a voluntary visit of representatives of the Member States of the Working Group to the headquarters of the Institute in Santo Domingo.

19. On 4 June 2003, the Fifth Committee approved by consensus draft resolution A/C.5/57/L.88 on the financial situation of the Institute, reiterating the mandate to appoint a Director at the D-2 level, and recommended the resolution for adoption by the General Assembly (see A/57/649/Add.2, para. 16, draft resolution II). The Assembly subsequently adopted resolution 57/311.

20. On 25 September, the Working Group received a letter from the Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs proposing three candidates: one from the Netherlands and two from Tunisia. The letter asked for the views of the Working Group on the candidates by 1 October 2003.

21. On 30 September, the Working Group sent a letter to the Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs welcoming the apparent progress in the process of appointing a Director for INSTRAW, as had been requested by the General Assembly in its resolution 57/175. The Working Group also pointed out the need to have a meeting and request more information about potential candidates from other regional groups.

22. On 3 October, the Working Group met with the Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs and requested additional information on the process of selection of potential candidates.

23. On 8 October, the Working Group was informed that a candidate from Mexico had been added to the list of candidates, and the Working Group requested the

Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs to consider that candidate along with those included in the final list.

24. During 2003, the Working Group has convened 3 formal meetings and 10 informal meetings. The last formal meeting was held in order to approve the present report on 24 October 2003, once authorization from the General Assembly had been obtained.

II. Status of implementation of the recommendations of the Working Group

25. The following is the status of implementation of the recommendations of the Working Group contained in paragraph 57 of A/57/330:

(a) Linkage with the Department of Economic and Social Affairs: Article III, paragraph 2 (b) of the Statute of INSTRAW stipulates the participation of the Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs as an ex officio member of the Executive Board of INSTRAW;

(b) Recommendation "a": On the basis of this recommendation, the Economic and Social Council decided to amend articles III and IV of the Statute in order to transform the Board of Trustees into an Executive Board;

(c) Recommendation "b": The General Assembly allocated the amount of $500,000 from the regular budget of the United Nations in two parts over the course of six months in 2003;

(d) Recommendation "c": The Institute's location remains in the Dominican Republic;

(e) Recommendation "d": In lieu of the Board of Trustees, the Economic and Social Council decided to establish an Executive Board composed of 10 Member States. The Board will have the participation of the Director of the Institute, the Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs, a representative of the host country and representatives of the regional commissions, all as ex officio members;

(f) Recommendation "e": The creation of the post of Deputy Director has been enabled by the changes to the Statute in article IV, paragraph 2 (e). At the same time, article IV, paragraph 2, enables the Director to delegate responsibilities to staff members where appropriate;

(g) Recommendation "f": The Working Group has no information about the creation of this liaison;

(h) Recommendation "g": A Director has not been appointed as at 24 October 2003.

United Nations A/58/541–S/2003/1049

General Assembly
Security Council

Distr.: General
30 October 2003

Original: English

General Assembly
Fifty-eighth session
Agenda items 117 (a) and (b)
Human rights questions: implementation of human rights instruments; human rights questions, including alternative approaches for improving the effective enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms

Security Council
Fifty-eighth year

Letter dated 27 October 2003 from the Permanent Representative of Turkey to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith a letter dated 22 October 2003, addressed to you by His Excellency Mr. Reşat Çağlar, Representative of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus (see annex).

I should be grateful if the present letter and its annex would be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda items 117 (a) and (b), and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Umit **Pamir**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

03-58905 (E) 041103

Annex to the letter dated 27 October 2003 from the Permanent Representative of Turkey to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Upon instructions from my Government, I have the honour to refer to the letter dated 9 October 2003 addressed to you by the Greek Cypriot representative to the United Nations and circulated as a document of the Security Council and of the General Assembly (A/58/429-S/2003/982), and to bring to your attention the following pertinent facts concerning the matter.

The slanderous and politically motivated false accusations contained in the above-mentioned letter constitute yet another attempt on the part of the Greek Cypriot side to cast a shadow on the functioning democracy of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus (TRNC). The reality is that the TRNC has an exemplary record with regard to its pluralistic democracy and fully functional parliamentary system. Free local and general elections are conducted regularly every five years based on universal suffrage. As a matter of fact, the next general elections are to be held in December 2003. All shades of opinion across the political spectrum are represented in the TRNC through political parties, currently numbering more than ten, five of which are being represented in the Parliament. The fact that each and every political party can propagate freely its policies through meetings and affiliated mass media organizations, including the newspaper *Afrika*, provides clear testimony to the nature and quality of our democracy. The multiplicity of daily newspapers, private radios and televisions also propagate freely all political thought and opinion, subject only to the laws of defamation and libel, as in any other country.

Freedom of the press and freedom of expression, speech and assembly are being enjoyed to the full by the people of the TRNC, which upholds the rule of law, and such rights are enshrined in and protected by the Constitution of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus. Much to the dislike of the Greek Cypriot representative, these facts are attested to in the annual human rights reports of the United States Department of State, including the most recent one, released on 31 March 2003.

The Greek Cypriot representative's false pretence to be the guardian of the human rights of the Turkish Cypriots does not sit well. It should be recalled that with regard to the issue of human rights, the Greek Cypriot administration and its representatives are in no position to occupy any seat other than the guilty one, in view of its past record. The plight of the Turkish Cypriot people in the face of Greek Cypriot violence between the years 1963 and 1974 could not be better portrayed than by the passage included in the memoirs of George W. Ball, the then Under-Secretary of State. In a telegram to the then Secretary of State, Dean Rusk, he wrote:

> "The Government of Cyprus (Greek Cypriot Administration) are committed to a strategy which, after our discussion of the last two days, I think even they should believe is silly, of trying to neutralize Turkey by a Security Council resolution condemning aggression and guaranteeing territorial integrity. In this manner, they hope to eliminate the one defence of the Turkish Cypriot population, so that 'Government of Cyprus' can proceed happily with systematic genocide, without outside interference" (*The Past Has Another Pattern*, New York, 1982, p. 345).

In a similar vein, the then United Nations Secretary-General, U Thant, in his report to the Security Council dated 10 September 1964, stated, "the economic

restrictions being imposed against the Turkish communities in Cyprus ... in some instances have been so severe as to amount to a veritable siege" (S/5950, para. 222).

The Greek Cypriot representative, instead of trying to create confusion around non-issues, would better serve the international community by trying to explain his side's totally negative attitude and actions towards the steps taken by the Turkish Cypriot side aimed at enhancing understanding and mutual confidence between the two peoples. It would be recalled that following the outright refusal of the Greek Cypriot side of our confidence-building measures package of 2 April 2003, the Turkish Cypriot side has decided to proceed unilaterally with some of the measures contained in the package, among which was the facilitation of free movement of peoples between the two sides. Notwithstanding the fact that both peoples in Cyprus reacted positively to the bold steps taken by the Turkish Cypriot side, the Greek Cypriot administration remains steadfast in its effort to undermine and block the implementation of the measures with its anachronistic policies and its official statements made on a regular basis denouncing the measures. In this context, the Greek Cypriot authorities continue to discourage both Greek Cypriots and tourists from crossing over to the north, do not allow tourists to stay overnight in the TRNC and threaten the Greek Cypriots and others who choose to stay overnight with legal action, including fines and imprisonment. People who buy consumer goods from Turkish Cypriot shops in the TRNC are faced with difficulties on their way back to southern Cyprus. The Greek Cypriot press reports confirm that such goods continue to be confiscated by the Greek Cypriot police in spite of reactions from the public. A case in point is the deportation by the Greek Cypriot authorities of a tourist group composed of 50 or so third-party nationals from Larnaka Airport in southern Cyprus on 16 October 2003, on the grounds that they were planning to visit the north as well during their stay on the island. These are the real issues and concrete behaviour of the Greek Cypriot party which have to be addressed by all concerned.

On the other hand, it is true that the Turkish Cypriot people are willing and ready for a political solution in Cyprus as well as European Union membership, subject to respect for the law which provides that Cyprus cannot enter any union unless Turkey and Greece are both members. It is also true that the Turkish Cypriot people are also determined to make sure that their State, the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus, is not dismantled by any means and to continue protecting their inherent rights and interests at all costs instead of yielding to Greek Cypriot aspirations of bringing Cyprus under their domination.

It is saddening to observe the Greek Cypriot side in its old familiar guise. The failure of the Greek Cypriot leadership to reciprocate our each and every initiative in any direction has demonstrated beyond doubt that the professed political will of the Greek Cypriot party for a solution is nothing more than a political tactic aimed at misleading and deceiving the international community.

I should be grateful if the present letter could be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda items 117 (a) and (b), and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Reşat **Çağlar**
Representative
Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus